

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 13-16 Feb 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.4 Support Services for Government Operations

Topic: Royal gifts

Senator: Senator Kroger

Question reference number: 67

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

1. Could the Department please confirm that gifts, presented by Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness Prince Phillip, during their visit to Australia in 2011, were actually funded by the Prime Minister's Office and thus subsequently the Australian people.
2. Will the Department please provide a complete and comprehensive list of gifts that were presented by the Royals to the Australian people during their last visit?
3. Will the department please list the individual value for each of the gifts outlined in response to question three and will the Department please outline how much each of the aforementioned gifts cost the taxpayer?
4. What is the total cost to the taxpayer of gifts presented by the royals to Australians on their most recent visit?

Answer: The cost of gifts presented by Her Majesty The Queen during her visit to Australia in October 2011 was not paid for by the Prime Minister's Office, this department nor any other part of the Australian Government. Following some media reporting of the issue in January 2012, Buckingham Palace confirmed that all gifts presented during the 2011 visit were paid for by The Queen. The Department is therefore not in a position to provide answers to questions 2-4.